

Henderson Gaylord House
Plymouth, Pennsylvania
Lozeng Co.

HABS No. Pa-28
HABS
PA.
40 PLYM,
1.

measured drawings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Pa-2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer
139 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

HENDERSON GAYLORD HOUSE
PLYMOUTH, PENNSYLVANIA
Pa-28

In 1769, Samuel Gaylord, one of the First Forty, came from Farmington, Connecticut to the Wyoming Valley.

In 1772, Ambrose and Charles Gaylord were living in Plymouth. During the Revolution three Gaylords were in Captain Ransom's Company, a fourth was killed in the Battle of Wyoming.

1774, Joseph Gaylord was appointed one of the three first directors of Plymouth. Wright calls them "our first Triumvirate" and compares them with the Triumvirs of Rome and the three Consuls of France.

From 1820 to 1835 Henderson Gaylord was a partner of William C. Reynolds. They were general merchants and dealers in coal and gave especial attention to its shipment out of the valley. Consequently the name of Gaylord is closely linked with the development of the industry. Mining and distribution were the two dominant phases of this development. Very quickly production increased to the point where transportation facilities completely broke down.

In 1807 Abijah Smith made the first recorded shipment of anthracite coal--fifty tons in an ark for which he paid \$24.00. On the spring floods and occasional high waters coal was regularly floated down the river to Havre de Grace. There it was transhipped in coastwise vessels to New York. Coal was also hauled in wagons and sleds over the Easton-Wilkes-Barre Turnpike. The North Branch Canal later gave some relief.

By 1850 these methods were wholly inadequate. Foreseeing men began to think in terms of steam. Henderson Gaylord was one of them and, later became one of the promoters of the Lackawanna and Bloomsburg Railroad. He must have been greatly pleased when, in 1856, the first passenger train steamed down the valley. But Henderson Gaylord lived to see the many changes in railroads which made the train of 1856 seem like a toy.

The Gaylord mine and the Gaylord breaker were among the earliest in the valley and have been in constant operation.

Because of the great care which has been given to this old house and because of the deep interest of its owner in the basic industry of Luzerne County, the Gaylord House today attracts and holds our attention.

Author. *Alfred D. ...*

Approved,

District Officer *Thomas H. Atkinson*

Rev. Sept 20, '36 THW